

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES.

OLD SETTLERS.

IRENEUS BROWER.

Birth Place.—That Boy.—Charcoal.—How He got on in Life.—An Equestrian Farmer.—Fiddler.—The Old Boy.—Cabinet Maker.

After an hour's drive we turned into the quiet home and to the cozy fire of Mr. Brower, whose name in full, is not fairly entitled to be called an old settler, much less a pioneer in this state. Yet a forty years residence where he is, and having seen a whole generation come and go, marks his home as a prominent point in the line of our sketches. He well illustrates the mixed condition of our population and the versatility of pursuits incident to our people. His great grandfather, born in Netherlands, may be styled a Dutchman. His mother, a Webster, and a niece of Noah, the spelling book man and Dictionary maker, represents the Yankee, Pilgrim or Puritan. Ireneus himself, born in New York, in Montgomery county, May 22, 1816, had little time for spelling books when school kept in winters only, two and a half miles away, with snow four feet deep on the roads. Six boys and one girl had to be looked after in that home. It was a new and rough country, full of great trees and charcoal pits; watching the fires seemed to relieve the monotony of his learning to play on the fiddle, by stealth, of course, Ireneus, having due deference to the pious scruples of his mother who feared that that not over sacred instrument might be put to profane use in the country dances, and other worldly amusements of like character. As might be expected, the musical element got the start of the religious, in the boy's mental and moral make up, and the "boy was father to the man." The children of our time that have costly pianos and organs, and man traps of all sorts—teachers and musical literature in superfluity, may take note of the fact that in that day their fathers had not loose change enough to buy a note book; and that music, as in the case of this lad, was learned without teacher and by note, of course, on a promise "not to play at dances." It is not necessary to say that in this particular matter human nature took the common course and "cut up" with the young folk.

At the age of twelve years his family left the Mohawk Valley for the far west, and settled in northern Ohio—Cherry Valley Ashtabula county. A thin soil covered with timber did not materially enrich their worldly estate. Ireneus became a cabinet maker and took pay largely in any poor stock the neighbors could not use, or as is sometimes said, "in calamities." It was a hard case when a young fellow had to make coffins to give a creditable send off to the departed, on credit. In cabinet making a man must have tools and a little hardware, and consequently, hard cash. Mother wit and "human nature" helped out in this matter. People would dance and pay the fiddler. Ireneus fiddled, and business went on, or when it paid better the fiddling went on and business waited. In this branch of high art he traveled with small shows pretty much through Ohio in an early day, and contributed to the world's amusement and fun-loving and took a "change" for the more serious works of life.

The wife, Mary A. Green, two years younger than himself, looked well to the ways of the household as Frances, Franklin, Harry and Flora were added to the establishment in general partnership. It was in 1845 when he took the purpose to go west, for life on easier conditions, in a better country. Down the Ohio; up the Mississippi and the Illinois rivers, he looked about and fixed on La Salle county as the place for a home. A brief interview with Judge Krum, at St. Louis, (the Mayor of Alton in time of the Lovejoy riot, who, when appealed to by citizens to preserve the peace in time of imminent peril, consulted the common council and did not do it). Krum spoke in high terms of the possibilities of La Salle county, the terminus of the canal, &c. This gave direction, and the result was a final settlement here with family in 1846.

It was without experience that Mr. Brower began to learn farming when thirty years old, having been preempted from Uncle Samuel those fair acres, the nearest to Ottawa left in possession of the uncle aforesaid. He had experience in that day in shanty life, in prairie breaking and shaking with chill or being pestered with roving stock feeding on his winter wheat, roots and all. He may not care to tell everybody how, "with malice aforethought" he plunged out of doors of a night with very scanty night clothes to stamper the herd with his shoe maker'sawl at the end of his ramrod, and which to the best of his knowledge and belief, the steer that took it never brought back, and that he became so disgusted with the trick that with a jiff he sprang on his horse and dashed in among the cattle "as he was" ghost like, or as Milton says

Like "the great Alcestes, clothed in white" yelling like forty thousand Indians, more or less. He chased them hither and yon, up and down and across, sideways and straight forward after he got them on a wild run. Oh! it was grand! When he had well scattered them and proceeded to go back to bed, he was himself nowheres, lost, left out in the cold, with as slender knowledge of the points of compass as his stock of clothing was small. Staunch Universalist as he was, for once he had fear of a future state. What would be his fix when daylight came? What *same man* would go to bed horseback? Would he be presentable in mixed society? In forecasting and conjecture he made shore at the Bend, and recognized the Breese

place. From that point the horse had sense enough to go home. In all his journeyings since, he inclines to take more "things" with him when he goes far, or is out late.

As the years went on, the poverty and struggle of early life went with them. Sturdy toil, economy, honesty, kindness, brought corn and wine. Like hundreds of others, from poverty he has made himself rich in the accumulations of years, robbing no man, making money, bringing around him the comforts and luxury of a farmer's dwelling.

In 1868 the wife of his youth was laid to rest in her last sleep. A daughter, Flora, at thirteen; in 1869, Franklin, then city attorney of Ottawa, died. In his second marriage he brought as a helpmeet to the home Miss Sprague (daughter of Gilbert and Hannah). Four children are there, taking the places of those already gone out. The books, the violin, the organ, indicate the appliances for their education, and suggest the duties, pleasures and responsibilities of the home life of today. There, having mutual love and bounty, the esteem of friends, the respect of neighbors, one looking in upon them can see some of the fruitage of the observance of God's good laws, or wise and frugal industry, or pursuit of material good for family and home.

He has passed his 70th birthday, and tho' not long ago he came very near to death, in an encounter with his corn-sheller, Mr. Brower is today a well preserved and vigorous man, and has a little of the boy left in him besides. That identical fiddle keeps him connected with the historic past. It is a marvelous instrument. Its genealogy can be traced back 300 years! It is older than the sailing of the Mayflower, or the Landing of the Pilgrims. Probably no such musiced instrument in this country has any such record. Apparently made in Italy, retouched in the Netherlands, it is worthy of a place where its quality and age could give it at once greater celebrity and safe keeping! It has sent bounding many a thousand feet of merry dancers on different shores and in many States. It has witnessed the varying fortunes of many generations. As the cunning hand of the old man gave us the "Canadian Grand March," "Monie Musk," "Fisher's Hornpipe," and the like, we said, with Burns,—

"Hail be your heart! Hail be your fiddle! Long may your elbow jink and jiggle To cheer you through the weary widdle Of this wide world, Until you on a crowsneck diddle, A gray, hard Carl!"

Amusements.

The "Wall Street Bandit" company, which is now filling an engagement in Chicago at the Grand Opera House, will appear here on Wednesday, Dec. 15th, with the same powerful company, including Mr. Atkins Lawrence and Miss Viola Allen in the cast.

The Chicago Journal says: "The play, Wall Street Bandit, possesses some attractive qualities, and is, on the whole, well acted. Atkins Lawrence does some effective acting as Dr., and afterward Colonel Ralston and Viola Allen assume the role of Ethel Minton in a manner that entitles her to considerable praise. Leslie Allen, Percy Hunting, Cora May and one or two others won favor. The house was well filled and the audience appreciative."

Seats on sale at Simon's Music Store. On Thursday, Friday and Saturday, Dec. 16th, 17th and 18th, with Saturday Matinee, Prof. Crocker and his School of Educated Horses, will appear at the Opera House.

"The educational perfection of these animals," says an exchange, "is the sensation of the age and has astonished everyone. The performance is simply an equine school in which horses do all that children do, except speak. This is an indescribable entertainment that must be seen to be appreciated. It has won the approval of all the leading papers in the country, and has delighted the largest and most cultivated audiences. Merely as specimens of equine beauty the horses are worth seeing, and to their natural attractions are added the most astonishing proof of intelligence and education of the highest order."

The admission prices are, first floor, 35 cents; gallery, 25 cents; children under 12 years, 15 cents.

Reserved seats without extra charge at Simon's Music Store.

Troy Grove and Ophir.

The weather is so very pleasant that all are drawing home coal and taking grain to town.

A few are still husking corn, but they are very scarce.

John Richard says what he don't know about the weight of D. Reeder's hogs isn't worth knowing. In fact, John is getting to be an expert on hogs.

Our genial young friend Charlie Foster, Jr., is laid up for a few months. He having met with a serious accident. He was at work erecting a hay shed for James Dimmick and when up 20 feet the scaffolding broke, letting him fall among the debris and frozen earth. Charlie thinks he came out of it in luck as he only broke his jaw and cracked his knee cap. He is under the care of our worthy M. D., is resting easily and getting along as well as can be expected. Pedro and his many friends hope Charlie will soon be around again.

Charlie Jones, of Waltham, was married to a young lady from Michigan last week. On Tuesday the couple gave a reception at the residence of the groom's father, which was largely attended by the many friends.

Billy Mitchell is again classed among the bachelors, his cook having gone away. Henry Hornberger and wife, who worked for Wm. Mitchell this summer, have removed to Mendota.

Our wet grocery has the latest improvements from the city. An elevator, well John says he has made money this fall betting on hogs and can afford to put on style.

The section gang has been reduced to three hands, the Wallace brothers. The Meyer family had a reunion last

week. All were there but one member. The concert Tuesday evening was a success.

Hank Ettinger is going to sell James McClarren's goods to pay for rent.

The new house gives Frank Craine away badly. Still he asserts the hired man is going to occupy it.

James Craine has greatly improved the McBoiter farm since he has taken possession.

R. Wyley has received two loads of fine stock from Chicago.

Sales are getting numerous and Col. Carr is as happy a clam in a mud puddle.

Miss H. Carr has taken the ribbons in district No. 8. She is a good teacher and will no doubt make a success of the school.

Mr. Hapeman, from Earl, ss the guest of his son Dwight, at Troy Grove.

A great many are suffering for water.

From Grand Ridge.

GRAND RIDGE, Dec. 8.—The roads are in fine condition now, and the people generally are improving the opportunity by doing their winter's wagoning.

John Essie has taken hammer in hand with the determination of making his crib larger in order to hold his large crop.

Ransom Palmer has lately returned from a tour in the far west. His advice is for the farmers not to sell their crops too soon.

Rev. Lawyer will preach in the C. P. church Sunday morning and evening.

Rev. Palmer, of Russellville, will occupy the pulpit in the Presbyterian church next Sabbath at three o'clock P. M.

The dwelling of Mrs. Joe Negal was burned one day last week. The cause was a bad chimney.

A. N. Porter left Monday morning to take charge of his school which is about eight miles north of Ottawa.

Mr. Clark Moss has made a sale of all his farm implements, and has moved to Grand Ridge with his mother to live upon some property recently purchased.

The temperance people will hold their next meeting in the C. P. church on Saturday night.

From Ransom.

RANSOM, Dec. 9.—At a meeting of the village trustees, Monday evening, Marshal McCormack was discharged and Jim Ford given power to wield the club of authority.

Dr. Dyer of Ottawa, was out to see Mr. James McIntyre on Monday. He thinks he will not recover.

One of Robertson's horses ran away Monday. The driver, Nick Steinhart, was thrown out of the cart and had his hand badly bruised and his lip cut.

The Ransom Literary Society was re-organized Friday evening, with Rev. W. H. Simpson, president; Miss Mattie Summers, secretary, and Will Whitmore, treasurer. The next meeting will be held in the city hall, Saturday evening at 7:30.

The jubilee, which began in the Catholic church Sunday and continued until Tuesday noon, was well attended. Father Crowe was assisted in the good work by Father Shiron of Chenoa, who delivered a good sermon Monday night.

Mr. Oleson and family left yesterday for Dakota where they will in the future reside.

Mrs. Patrick Breaston is very sick, so much so that her recovery is doubtful. Charlie Belswanger had a cow killed by the passenger train going east Tuesday.

SCHMIDT.

Godfrey Erlenborn, a well-known citizen of Mendota, was found dead some two miles from the city by a farmer. He was but lightly clothed and had not even a coat on. Life must have been extinct for some hours, as the body was frozen stiff.

The latest is that the new Santa Fe Illinois line is to gobble the Chicago and St. Louis road (Pekin) and use that line from Streator to Chicago. Streator will now make an effort to get the shops of the road.

There are 200 miners at Spring Valley who cannot take their families there for want of house room. The town has at least 3,000 population.

Streator is going to build a glass works for making Cathedral glass; capital, \$40,000. Ground has been purchased. The stock has been taken at home.

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100 POLAND PIGS

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A large number of animals of each of the above breeds of all ages and both sexes, either grades or thoroughbreds, always on hand for sale. Inspection of stock desired. Farm, five miles south of Ottawa, P. O. Box 958 Ottawa Illinois.

\$375 will buy a neat 4 room cottage, in minutes' walk from the Court House. Large lot, good well, fruit trees and shrubbery. The best bargain in Ottawa.

DR. J. O. HARRIS & SON.

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Do People Begin to Save their Money and make good resolutions

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Why Not Begin Now?

Among the best resolutions a man can make is to save some of his money. With the fact in view that we cannot escape buying Christmas presents, why not begin at the last of this year to save, as well as wait until the first of next? Why not buy your Christmas Presents where you can find something for the Baby as well as Father and Mother, and at prices away below what you expected to spend, and thus have money left to start the New Year with? I am confident I can save you money and show you the finest assortment of fine Holiday Goods and good, substantial Toys in the city.

E. Y. GRIGGS.

Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific Railroad.

NEW TIME TABLE.

GOING EAST.

No. 2, Pacific Express and Mail, 10:58 A. M. No. 3, Night Express, 11:35 A. M. No. 4, Kansas City Express, 2:35 A. M. No. 5, Chicago and Des Moines, 2:15 P. M. No. 6, Bureau East Accommodation, 7:42 A. M. No. 12, St. Paul Express, 11:30 A. M.

GOING WEST.

No. 1, Atlantic Express, 8:18 P. M. No. 7, Chicago and Kansas City Express, 2:05 A. M. No. 8, Bureau East Accommodation, 12:40 P. M. No. 9, Bureau East Accommodation, 8:00 P. M. No. 11, St. Paul Express, 3:55 P. M.

Freight Carrying Passengers.

No. 20, Atlantic Express, 10:35 A. M. No. 21, Chicago and Kansas City Express, 2:30 P. M. No. 22, Bureau East Accommodation, 12:40 P. M. No. 23, Bureau East Accommodation, 8:00 P. M. No. 24, St. Paul Express, 3:55 P. M.

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For the LUNGS.

Cures Coughs, Colds, Pneumonia, Consumption, Bronchitis, Difficulties, Bronchitis, Hoarseness, Asthma, Croup, Whooping Cough, Influenza, and all Diseases of the Breathing Organs. It soothes and heals the Membrane of the Lungs, inflamed and poisoned by the disease, and prevents the night sweats and the tightness across the chest, which accompany it. CONSUMPTION is not an incurable malady. HALL'S BALSAM will cure you, even though professional aid fails. Price 25 cts., 50 cts. and \$1.00.

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Understand this Card.

MEN'S SUITS.

\$4.50 buys a complete suit; others will ask you \$8.50.

\$7 for an all-wool Winter Outfit you can't buy for less than \$12.00.

\$10 and \$12 for the best Harris Cassimere Suits in the country.

Children's Flannel Waists, 45c.

\$1 for a Fur Cap worth \$1.50.

We have the best and finest goods made, all from the same Wolf purchases.

All-Wool Scotch Tweed Men's Pants, \$1.75.

OVERCOATS.

\$17.50 Moscow Beaver, tailor made, we sell for \$10.

\$22.00 Imported Worsted, satin lined, we sell for \$14.50.

\$25.00 Imported Dark Brown and Drab Kersey, tailor made, we sell for \$15.50.

\$18.00 Chinchillas, in all shades, we sell at \$11.

Overcoats, all sizes, \$9 down to \$3, worth double the money.

Boys' Overcoats; Boys' Suits.

Red all-wool Shirts and Drawers, 48c.

Scotch Caps, 35 cents.

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